REMARKS

The claims have been amended above to place them in a format more consistent with U.S. practice. These amendments are not intended to change the scope of these claims in any respect.

An early action on the merits and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

3. (Amended) The surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the surface modifying base material is at least one member selected from light silicic anhydride, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, starch, titanium oxide, citric acid, malic acid, adipic acid, hydrous silicon dioxide and calcium carbonate.

4. (Amended) The surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 3], wherein the surface modifying base material is at least one member selected from light silicic anhydride, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate and calcium stearate.

5. (Amended) The surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 4], wherein light silicic anhydride is used as the surface modifying base material.

7. (Amended) The surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 6], wherein the pharmacologically active ingredient added with a diluent selected from lactose, erythritol, trehalose, anhydrous calcium hydrogenphosphate and crystalline cellulose has been surface-modified with the surface modifying base material.

8. (Amended) The surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 7], wherein the flowability is at most 42° in terms of an angle of repose.

9. (Amended) The surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 8], which is subjected to dry coating after adding at least one member selected from finely divided titanium oxide, talc, erythritol and trehalose to the powder for surface modification before or after the surface modification.

10. (Amended) A method of producing the surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient and having a flowability enabling direct tabletting according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 through 9], which comprises blending, for surface modification, a powder for surface modification comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient and optionally further containing a diluent with a surface modifying base material.

11. (Amended) A fast disintegrating tablet comprising the pharmacologically active ingredient-comprising surface-modified powder according to claim 1 [any one of claim 1 through 9], having blended with a disintegrant and directly tableted.

14. (Amended) A method of producing the fast disintegrating tablet according to claim 11 [any one of claims 11 through 13], which comprises blending, for surface modification, a powder for surface modification comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient and optionally further containing a diluent with a surface modifying base

material, adding a disintegrant to the blend and then subjecting the mixture to direct tabletting.

15. (Amended) Use of the surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient for producing a tablet by directly tabletting the surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 through 9], optionally after blending the powder with an additive.

17. (Amended) A method of producing a tablet preparation, which comprises subjecting the surface-modified powder comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 through 9], to direct tabletting, optionally after blending the powder with an additive.